



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

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Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Urges Legislature to Move Forward with Redistricting Proposal

SACRAMENTO, CA - Secretary of State Bruce McPherson sent this letter to the California Legislature last week urging them to move forward with a redistricting proposal during this legislative session:

August 10, 2006

Dear Members of the Legislature:

I am writing to encourage you to pass a redistricting reform bill before the end of this Legislative session. Redistricting is an issue of vital importance that can and should be dealt with as soon as possible. I commend you for establishing a committee to review this issue and look forward to the results of these efforts.

The current process of drawing legislative boundaries is a system full of inherent conflict of interest. This conflict results in incumbents directly determining the shape of districts for which they themselves or members of their party will run for office. Instead, an independent commission should do this work.

I strongly believe the process for drawing legislative district boundaries can and must be better. I hope that you, as members of the Legislature, can work together in a bipartisan manner to reach a reasonable solution to this problem. A reform proposal should focus on core principles of fairness, balance, simplicity and transparency. It should maintain geographic integrity and reflect the equality and growth of minority populations.

As California's Chief Elections Officer, I am very committed and focused on encouraging greater participation in our electoral process. When people believe their vote counts, when the rules of the game force both sides to compete fairly for votes and when there's a chance it could go either way, people pay attention and participate in the process.

Reapportionment is of tremendous importance to me. As you move through this process, please know that I am available to assist you in any way I can. California voters deserve districts that are drawn in an open, transparent and fair way. I look forward to the day when a fair reapportionment that accurately reflects the people of California and benefits our democracy can be implemented.

Sincerely,

BRUCE McPHERSON
California Secretary of State

cc: The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger